Tippecanoe County
Primary 2008
Looking Forward to Fall

Tippecanoe County
Board of Elections and Registration
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Primary 2008 – Looking Forward to Fall

The major story of the 2008 Primary Election was the turnout. Vote Centers worked very well and were able to absorb considerably more voters than we had planned for. Voters like to vote on their own schedule and at a location of their own choosing.   In general, satellite voting worked very well and people were very positive about it.

Researchers at Ball State University are tallying surveys regarding voter satisfaction with Vote Centers. They also conducted timing studies. Their results are not yet available but will yield important insights into the effectiveness of our voter outreach efforts and voter satisfaction and provide valuable data to enable us to better allocate resources. In addition, the League of Women Voters conducted surveys of voters at some sites as well as conducting surveys about training with election workers.

This report is divided into two sections. The first section details the statistics from the 2008 Primary Election and compares them to earlier elections. The second section is a discussion of some of the things we learned in this election that we will want to apply to the 2008 General Election.

2008 Statistics:

Turnout -   The major story about the 2008 Primary Election is the turnout. As we began planning for the primary election, we looked at the number of people who voted in primary elections for the last several years.

Year	Number Voting
May-90	19,736
May-92	22,107
May-94	18,424
May-96	22,434
May-98	19,051
May-00	18,509
May-02	20,784
May-04	15,176
May-06	15,267

Looking at the voting history suggested that planning for 15,000 to 20,000 would be more than sufficient. As it became obvious that the primary election in Indiana would make a difference as to the selection of the Democratic

Presidential nominee, we began to consider that perhaps our estimates of the number who might vote were too low. We looked at the number of Democratic ballots pulled in the last six elections; it was between 2,768 in 1998 to a high of 4,295 in 2004.

Number of Republican and Democratic Voters
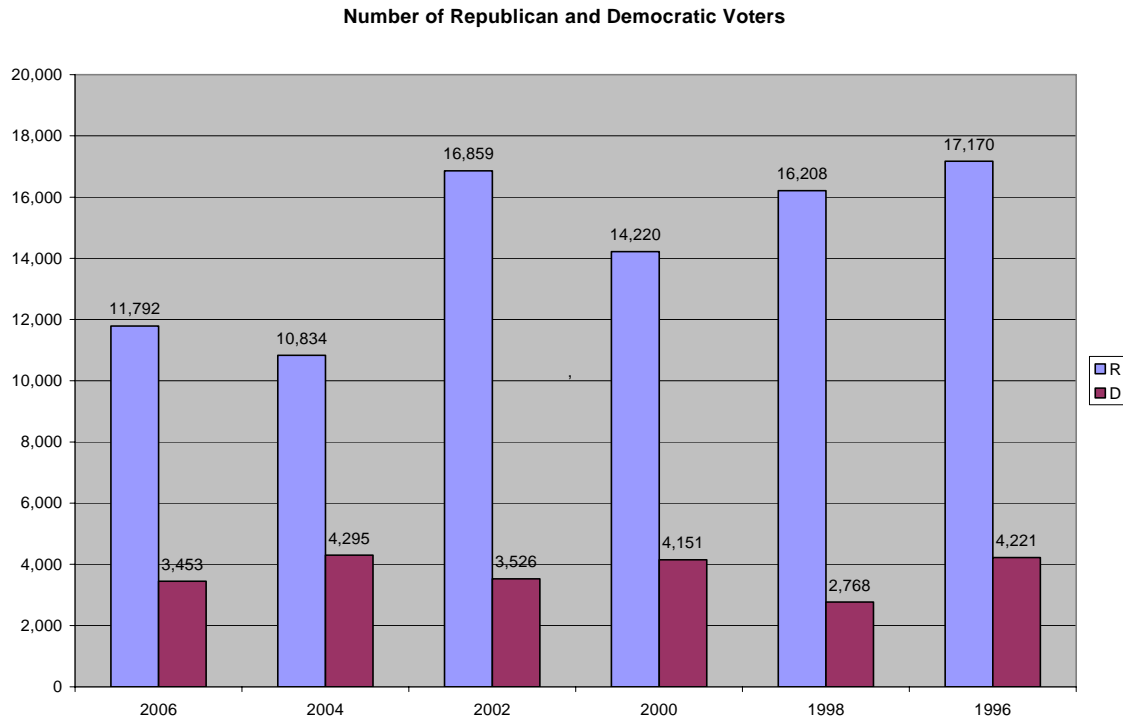
After looking at primary election results in some neighboring states, it appeared to us that neighboring states were experiencing turnout of three to four times their usual numbers. Using one of the higher numbers of Democratic ballots, we multiplied 5,000 by four to estimate that we would have 20,000 Democratic voters. We assumed that Republican voters would likely remain at their usual level. This would give us a total numbers of voters in the range of 30,000, so we calculated staffing levels on that basis.

As we progressed through the early voting process, we began to get a little nervous about the total turnout; we made some contingency plans in case turnout was substantially over our estimates.   We purchased additional bar code scanners as this allows us to check in voters more quickly and we identified more "extra" workers who could fill in on election day in the event of overwhelming turnout.

These contingency plans proved to be a good idea; interest in the election exceeded even our generous estimates as nearly 40,000 voters voted in the primary. This is 46.2% of active voters in Tippecanoe County and 43.4% of registered voters.   The chart on the next page shows a bar graph of the number of registered voters and the number voting from 1990 to 2008.

Registered Voters and Turnout 1990-2008
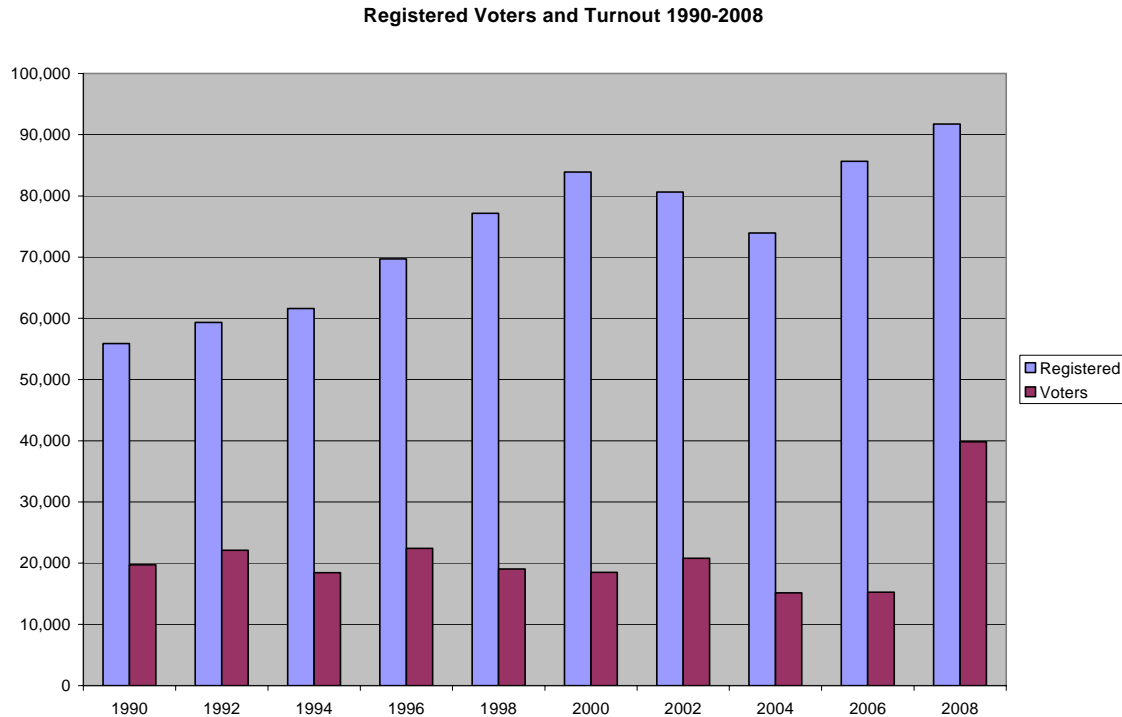
Voters selected the following ballot types:

Non-partisan	53
Republican	10,621
Democratic	29,158

73.2% of all voters selected the Democratic ballot. Contrast this with the 43.1% of voters who voted for the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State in 2006.

Precincts vs. Vote Centers - In 2008, Tippecanoe County had a total of 95 voting precincts; in a conventional election, we would likely have had 92 precinct election boards. There are a total of 91,736 registered voters, active and inactive. This is an increase of 5,378 voters since November, 2007.   We had a total of 20 Vote Centers for this election. Appendix 1 shows a map of the locations of the Vote Centers. Locating Vote Centers in the rural areas of the county was very difficult as there are few buildings with acceptable ADA accessibility, particularly in the southern part of the county.

Voters – There were a total of 39,832 ballots cast in the 2008 Primary Election. Of these 11,166 were cast early and a total of 28,666 were cast in person on Election Day. There were 233 provisional ballots cast; of these, 52 were accepted.   Of the provisional ballots that were not accepted, 22 had ID issues; 144 were not registered in Tippecanoe County and 15 didn't have

enough information on the form to determine a reason.   The table below shows the number of people voting at each Vote Center. Note that these figures include the provisional ballots cast; not all of these ballots were accepted. The gross numbers are included here because casting of provisional ballots does require considerable pollworker time and this impacts staffing.

Vote Center	Voters
4-H Fairgrounds	2509
Battle Ground Fire Station	1143
Brady Lane Church of Christ	1575
Calvary Baptist Church	1546
County Extension Office	793
Covenant Presbyterian	977
Dayton United Methodist Church	992
Evangelical Covenant Church	2309
Faith Community Center	1640
Federated Church	1270
Jenks Rest	1434
Klondike Library	2157
Lafayette City Hall	1080
Lafayette Fire Station #5	1973
McAllister Center	814
Morton Community Center	802
Purdue Memorial Union	1941
Shrine Club	983
St. Lawrence	1166
The Outpost	1817
Total	**28921**

Please note that these totals may differ from the final vote totals. There are occasions where a voter signs the poll list but fails to vote and there are occasions when a voter fails to sign the poll list but does vote.

Provisional Ballots -   There were 233 provisional ballots cast; of these, 52 were accepted.   Of the provisional ballots that were not accepted, 22 had ID issues; 144 were not registered in Tippecanoe County and 15 didn't have enough information on the form to determine a reason.

We were curious about the voters who cast a provisional ballot and were unwilling or unable to present ID and did some more extensive research on those voters. Further research showed that two of the provisional ballots were from people not actually registered to vote. Five voters had photo ID from other states. Eleven had Indiana drivers licenses or ID cards but were unwilling or unable to produce them. The remaining five voters did not appear in any of the databases we checked. The databases consulted were the Purdue Student database, the BMV database, property tax owners database, and the court records of Tippecanoe County.

Turnout - One of the questions we would like to be able to answer is "Do Vote Centers increase turnout?" It would be tempting to declare that Vote Centers were responsible for the turnout in this primary but it would be more accurate to say that the races on the ballot were responsible for the high voter turnout. However, we can compare ourselves with some other counties. In this random sampling of other Indiana counties, we found the following percent turnouts.

County	Percent Turnout
Wayne	**33.4%**
Allen	34.3%
Marion	36.6%
Warren	37.3%
Johnson	38.1%
Howard	39.9%
Hendricks	40.1%
White	40.2%
Carroll	41.0%
Morgan	41.0%
Fountain	41.2%
Montgomery	41.5%
Boone	41.7%
Elkhart	42.0%
Vigo	42.4%
Tippecanoe	**43.4%**
Monroe	44.5%
Benton	45.6%
Hamilton	45.8%
Cass	**49.0%**
Lake	50.7%

The three counties in blue are Vote Center counties. Of course, turnout is a statistic that depends upon the number of registered voters in a county. In a

county like Tippecanoe, while has a highly mobile population and a major university, the number of registered voters is likely inflated by people who no longer live in the community but remain on the registration rolls. This reduces the percent turnout level. Judging by the number of postcards that were mailed to voters and returned as undeliverable, there are probably 15,000 registered voters that no longer live at their registration address.

While Tippecanoe County didn't have the highest percent turnout, it did have turnout comparable to most counties of similar size. While it is too early to make a claim that Vote Centers increase turnout, neither can it be shown from the data available that Vote Centers decrease turnout.

One of the few concerns voiced by voters was that the lack of rural Vote Centers would disenfranchise the rural voter. However, it has been difficult to locate polling places in many of our rural precincts because there are no ADA-accessible buildings. In 2006, we drove every single mile of road in Jackson, Shelby and Randolph townships and were unable to locate any ADA-accessible buildings, so there would not have been polling places in those townships under any circumstances.   (We were able to locate an ADA-accessible location in Shelby township – a new grocery store – that was used as a satellite absentee center but it would not have been large enough to be used as a Vote Center.)

We reviewed the turnout in "rural" precincts to see whether or not voters in those precincts were more or less likely to vote in this election than those voters who lived "in town."   While it is debatable which precincts are "rural" and which are not, we believe that most observers would consider the following precincts to be mostly rural.

| | 2008 Primary | | | | |
Precinct	Total Active	Total Inactive	Total Voters	Total Voted	% Turnout
Washington 1	778	39	817	343	41.98%
Washington 2	814	24	838	420	50.12%
Wayne 1	969	36	1005	465	46.27%
Randolph 1	572	29	601	251	41.76%
Sheffield 1	717	35	752	316	42.02%
Sheffield 2	1460	12	1472	689	46.81%
Shelby 1-2	591	42	633	301	47.55%
Shelby 2	947	56	1003	506	50.45%
Tippecanoe 1	1267	49	1316	668	50.76%
Tippecanoe 2	631	15	646	308	47.68%
Tippecanoe 4	760	46	806	398	49.38%
Tippecanoe 5 (3)	136	3	139	86	61.87%
Tippecanoe 6	1385	69	1454	580	39.89%
Tippecanoe 7	144	3	147	74	50.34%

Union 1	1041	5	1046	483	46.18%
Jackson 3-1	303	14	317	135	42.59%
Lauramie 1	867	6	873	389	44.56%
Lauramie 2-2	620	26	646	289	44.74%
Total	14002	509	14511	6704	46.20%

Overall, 46.2% of the voters in "rural" townships voted in this election. When compared to overall turnout of 43.4%, it would appear that rural voters were not unduly inconvenienced by Vote Centers as they actually voted at a slightly higher rate than the entire population.

Satellite and Absentee Voting -   With Vote Centers, satellite voting occurred in two ways. Starting on Saturday, April 26, 2008, four locations opened for absentee voting – Pay Less Super Market on Greenbush, Pay Less Super Market on Beck Lane, Faith Community Center and West Lafayette City Hall. These four locations were open from 10:00am until 7:00pm daily, including Sundays, until May 4th.   Voting at these locations proved to be very popular; a total of 6,950 voted at these four locations.

Moving satellite absentee voting opened on Thursday, April 17th, on the campus of Purdue University. We were at Purdue in Stewart Center for Thursday and Friday. On Monday, we moved to a building on the Engineering campus and spent one day at that location on campus.   Overall 1,058 people voted on campus; 415 of those voters were age 25 and under.   Originally we had not intended to begin satellite absentee voting prior to April 21st but we were forced to change our plans because Purdue will not schedule student activities during the week before final exams and we were unable to find open days.

We also went to interested nursing and retirement homes, businesses, and government offices. We then set up for between two and nine hours to allow residents, families, staff and the general public to vote. In addition, voting was conducted by mail and by traveling board. Voters could also vote in the office of the Board of Election in the Courthouse during regular office hours, although we did not advertise that fact.

Voters overwhelmingly liked satellite voting. Twenty-eight percent of the ballots were cast early; this is up from 26.6% having been cast early in November, 2007.

The chart below shows the number of voters who voted at satellite vote centers. Since many of the centers were open different numbers of hours, the second column shows the total number of hours that a voter could vote at that location. The third column shows the total number of voters per hour. The locations listed in bold type were the fixed locations.

Location	Total Voters	Hours Open	Voters Per Hour
Pay Less - Beck Lane	**2461**	**81**	**30.4**
Pay Less - Greenbush	**2414**	**81**	**29.8**
Faith Community Center	**619**	**81**	**7.6**
WL City Hall	**1456**	**81**	**18.0**
Purdue University	1058	22	48.1
George Davis Manor	79	4	19.8
Friendship House	139	4	34.8
Rosewalk Village	50	3	16.7
Greentree	98	3	32.7
Digby House	37	3	12.3
St. Mary	83	4	20.8
Indiana Veterans Home	53	3	17.7
University Place	191	7	27.3
State Farm Insurance	128	9	14.2
Westminister Village	250	7	35.7
Regency Place	50	3	16.7
Clarks Hill	108	4	27.0
West Point Fire Station	199	4	49.8
Fellure Foods	140	4	35.0

The two grocery store locations were very popular. We were disappointed with the turnout at Faith Community Center; however, there is a major road construction project in the area and we believe that this reduced the turnout.

We made an effort to locate a satellite absentee site on the weekend before the election in the rural townships. We were unable to locate any ADA accessible sites in some townships but we did have satellite absentee sites in the small towns of West Point, Clarks Hill and Otterbein (Fellure Foods).   Dayton, Battle Ground and Shadeland were judged by the Election Board to be adequately served by Election Day Vote Centers either in or very near the township.   Regretfully, we were unable to locate any acceptable sites in Randolph or Jackson townships; however, prior to Vote Centers, those voters voted at a site in Union township, so this is not a new problem.

We are still tweaking the staffing levels of the satellite absentee centers; centers with more than thirty (30) voters per hour need three election workers for them to operate smoothly. Nursing homes with more than twenty (20) voters per hour also need three election workers as those voters generally need more assistance.

Concern had been expressed by the County Council that satellite absentee voting would be very expensive; this did not prove to be the case. Our

precise labor costs are a little murky because of a quirk in our accouting system and the fact that on occasion, salaried staff manned satellite centers. Had we staffed each site at the "correct" level, we would have spent $9,594. This is slightly less than $1 per early vote.   While this is somewhat higher than the election day direct labor cost of $0.73 per vote overall, we believe that we had fewer mail-out absentee and traveling board ballots. Both mail-out and traveling board are very labor-intensive methods of voting.

We were interested to compare the number of voters at the licensed care facility satellite sites that were also open for the 2007 Municipal General Election; while the number of voters for the 2008 primary was higher, the increase was not proportional to the overall increase in turnout. This suggests that the nursing home sites draw from a fairly fixed population and the numbers for fall are not likely to increase much more.

Electronic Pollbook vs. Paper Pollbooks - With the use of Vote Centers, it is no longer necessary to print and then store paper pollbooks. Printing pollbooks is a substantial expense; for the 2008 election, we would have printed 95 pollbooks at a cost of $ 2,145. This does not include the labor necessary to print them. We cannot print them during business hours because of the demand on our printers for other uses, so we must have staff work nights and weekends. The problem is even more acute during a county-wide election. During the 2006 election, we printed nearly 31,000 pages which took 47 overtime hours to accomplish.

The pollbook software was written for us by a local vendor, Del-Mar Technologies. We first used the software in 2007. We had the pollbook software modified for this election for use in the satellite absentee voting sites. We also used the pollbook software for in-office voters who voted on or after April 21st. Use of the e-pollbook software had huge advantages; our e-pollbook software is very fast and requires minimal training time for the election workers.

Another huge advantage of the electronic pollbook is that voter history can be uploaded to the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) electronically. After the 2006 election, the labor and fringe benefit costs to enter voter history exceeded $10,000.

One of the unexpected benefits of the electronic pollbook is the ability to provide us with a wealth of hard data about voter behavior; for example, we learned that older voters are much more likely to vote before noon. This is significant because the older voter tends to spend more time at the voting machines; this data will let us make more informed decisions about how many machines are required.

**Age/Time Voted of Election Day Voters - Primary 2008**
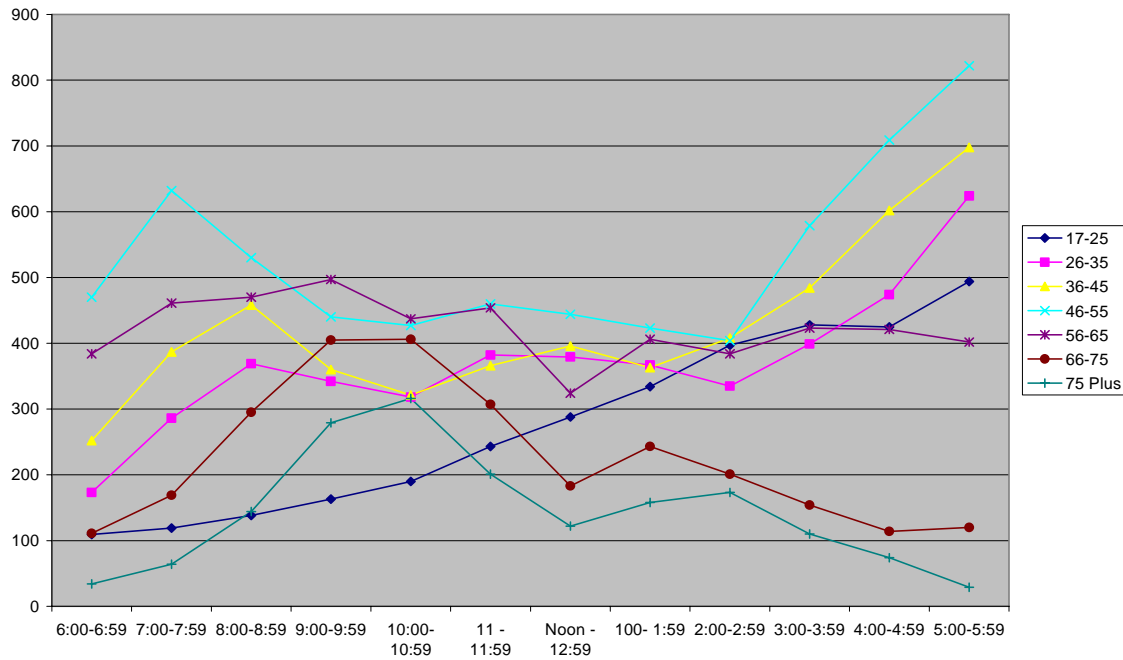
We also gleaned some interesting data about the ages of voters and the probability that they would vote early.

| Age	Total Registered	Total Percent Voting	Percent Voting Early	Percent Voting Election Day
17-25	12212	34.9%	7.7%	27.3%
26-35	20423	26.1%	4.3%	21.8%
36-45	15456	39.9%	6.9%	33.0%
46-55	15974	52.5%	12.8%	39.7%
56-65	13302	55.8%	17.7%	38.1%
66-75	7314	57.9%	20.9%	37.0%
75 Plus	7057	44.4%	20.2%	24.1%
	91738	42.4%	11.2%	31.3%

This information can be summarized in the bar graph on the next page.   We found it interesting that younger voters were less likely to vote early.

Percentage of Voters by Age Group who Voted Early and On Election Day
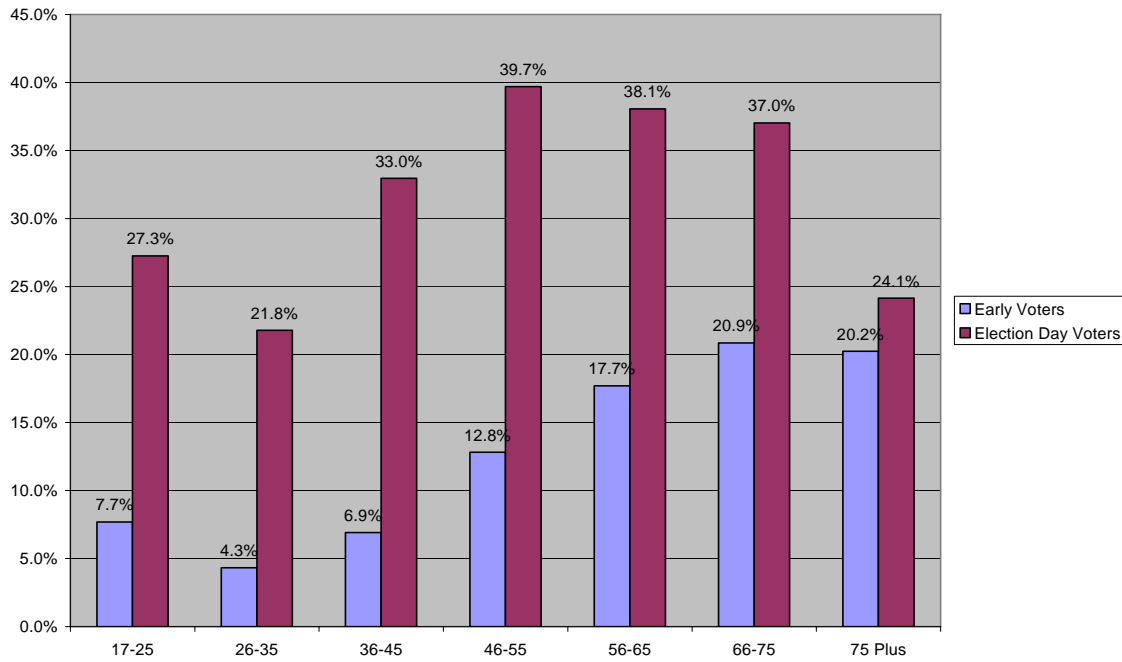
We were also fascinated to see that the number of voters per hour was highly consistent with the voting patterns from the 2007 election. Turnout was higher but the patterns were nearly identical.

Voters Per Hour 2007 and 2008
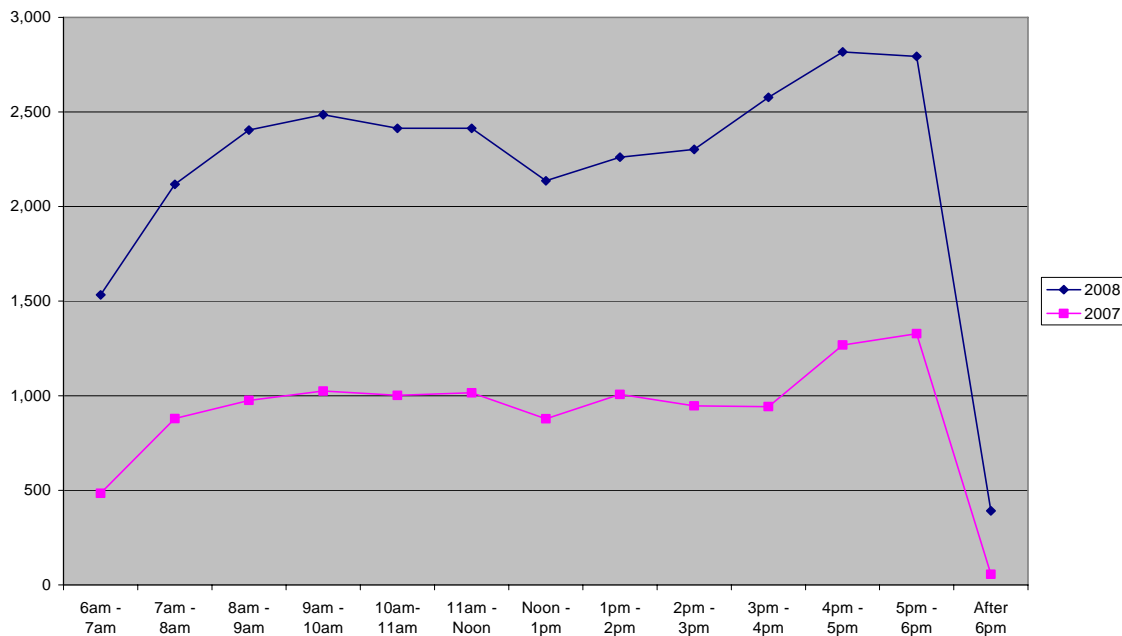
Pollworkers - One of the tremendous advantages of Vote Centers is that staffing can be tailored to expected turnout. We started with the premise that every Vote Center needed a supervisor (who was formerly known as the inspector and in Tippecanoe County is a Republican) and a lead Democratic judge. These individuals had to be present all day; other workers could work shorter shifts if they preferred.

Because pollworkers could work partial shifts and we planned to have more people present during the lunch hours, we have shown pollworkers, not as individuals, but as "voter contact hours." A voter contact hour is an hour when a pollworker who has the skills to check in voters, program voter cards and assist voters with provisional ballots is present during the hours the polls are open. So, the Vote Center supervisor represents 12 voter contact hours as he or she was were present during the 12 hours the polls were open.

At our smallest Vote Center, which was located in a small town, we had 48 contact hours of labor present. At our largest Vote Center, we had 134 voter contact hours. Staff was equally assigned by both political parties; the precinct board was comprised of the supervisor, the lead Democratic judge, and another judge as designated by the Republican party chairman.

In addition to the supervisors and judges, some Vote Centers had workers called "greeters." These pollworkers, although assigned by the political parties, were not part of the precinct election board. Their function was to welcome voters to the Vote Center and direct voters to the correct locations.

Workers were paid:
      Vote Center Supervisor - $ 200
      Lead Democratic Judge - $190
      Other Judges - $ 150 (all day) $75 for half-day shift
      Greeters - $ 96 per day
      Satellite Absentee Boards - $9 per hour

We increased compensation for pollworkers, particulary the supervisor and the lead Democratic judge, to allow for additional time spent in training. All workers, except greeters, spent a minimum of three hours in training. Supervisors and the lead Democratic judges spent a minimum of four hours in training.

The chart on the next page shows the number of voter contact hours per Vote Center.

Location	Voter Contact Hours	Greeter Hours	Total
Evangelical Covenant Church	96	12	108
Jenks Rest	79		79
Klondike Library	64	12	76
Calvary Baptist Church	67		67
Faith Community Center	60	24	84
Lafayette Fire Station #5	89		89
Dayton United Methodist Church	36	12	48
Purdue Memorial Union	78	24	102
4-H Fairgrounds	110	24	134
The Outpost	87		87
Battle Ground Fire Station	48	12	60
Brady Lane Church of Christ	78	12	90
St. Lawrence	72	6	78
Federated Church	72	12	84
Shrine Club	72		72
Lafayette City Hall	66	12	78
McAllister Center	48	12	60
Covenant Presbyterian	60	24	84
County Extension Office	60	12	72
Morton Community Center	90	0	90
Total	1432	210	1642

In a conventional precinct election, we would have had at least 5,520 voter contact hours. Although it is difficult to speculate on the labor rates for positions that don't exist, we would likely have paid each precinct election board $765 making the total election day labor costs $70,380. As it was, our election day polling place labor costs were $21,152.

The following chart shows the direct labor costs for each Vote Center.

Direct Labor Costs Per Location	Ballots Cast	Labor Cost	Cost Per Vote
Evangelical Covenant Church	2,295	$1,386.00	$0.60
Jenks Rest	1,427	$1,083.76	$0.76
Klondike Library	2,113	$936.00	$0.44
Calvary Baptist Church	1,533	$915.00	$0.60
Faith Community Center	1,634	$1,032.00	$0.63
Lafayette Fire Station #5	1,965	$1,247.50	$0.63
Dayton United Methodist Church	980	$636.00	$0.65
Purdue Memorial Union	1,915	$1,257.00	$0.66
4-H Fairgrounds	2,471	$1,632.00	$0.66

The Outpost	1,802	$1,230.00	$0.68
Battle Ground Fire Station	1,133	$786.00	$0.69
Brady Lane Church of Christ	1,570	$1,161.00	$0.74
St. Lawrence	1,158	$888.00	$0.77
Federated Church	1,260	$1,086.00	$0.86
Shrine Club	981	$890.00	$0.91
Lafayette City Hall	1,064	$1,027.00	$0.97
McAllister Center	803	$786.00	$0.98
Covenant Presbyterian	975	$1,022.00	$1.05
County Extension Office	778	$936.00	$1.20
Morton Community Center	790	$1,215.00	$1.54
Total	28,647	$21,152.26	$0.74

The downside of Vote Centers in terms of pollworkers is that many of our long-time pollworkers do not have the necessary computer skills to function in a Vote Center environment.

Costs - Although comparing the costs of Vote Centers with a conventional precinct election is a little hazardous since the actual costs of Vote Centers are known and the precinct election costs are estimated, we can say with confidence that Vote Centers are vastly more efficient. Had we operated a conventional precinct election in 2008, we would have had 5,520 voter contact hours of labor available. We estimate that 35,000 people would have voted on election day; the election day staff would have had an average of 9.4 minutes available per voter; this would certainly allow a lot of time for visiting with the voters.

Contrast this with the average number of minutes required by Vote Center staff to check in a voter – it ranged from 2.2 minutes at the Klondike Library to 6.8 minutes at Morton Community Center – and averaged 3.4 minutes overall. While the 2.2 minutes for each voter at Klondike Library was greatly influenced by the fact that the pollworkers at that site were of college student age and lightning fast with computers and the number at Morton was influenced by the fact that not nearly as many voters voted there as we had estimated, it shows that conventional precinct elections have a lot of excess capacity with their 9.4 minutes available per voter.

Location	Check in a Voter
Evangelical Covenant Church	2.8
Jenks Rest	3.3
Klondike Library	2.2
Calvary Baptist Church	2.6
Faith Community Center	3.1
Lafayette Fire Station #5	2.7
Dayton United Methodist Church	2.9

Purdue Memorial Union	3.2
4-H Fairgrounds	3.3
The Outpost	2.9
Battle Ground Fire Station	3.2
Brady Lane Church of Christ	3.4
St. Lawrence	4.0
Federated Church	4.0
Shrine Club	4.4
Lafayette City Hall	4.4
McAllister Center	4.5
Covenant Presbyterian	5.2
County Extension Office	5.6
Morton Community Center	6.8
Total	3.4

Since we had four satellite locations open on Saturday, the Election Board decided not to open the Courthouse for voting on Saturdays. There would have been additional costs in a precinct election because security and maintenance crews were not required on the two Saturdays before the election. No attempt has been made to quantify these costs.

Equipment transportation increased with Vote Centers because, in addition to moving the election equipment, we were also moving computers. The cost of mailing the postcards to each registered voter was expensive (especially since about 11% of them were returned as undeliverable) but necessary.

It is difficult to precisely quantify the cost differences between Vote Centers and conventional precincts. Some of the differences are easy to estimate but many of them are not. It takes significantly less staff time to make 20 phone calls to set up delivery than it would to call 90 locations. It takes much less time to fill 20 supply bags as opposed to 90. However, assigning a dollar amount to the saved staff time is difficult if not impossible.

Satellite vote centers dramatically reduce the number of mail-out absentee ballots which are extremely expensive in terms of labor, postage and supplies. Setting up satellite vote centers at nursing homes reduces the number of traveling board ballots required. Normally we could compare the number and type of absentee ballots under vote centers to a similar precinct election. However, with this election and the tremendous interest in it, previous elections are not really similar, so the amounts we have estimated as precinct cost for traveling board and mail out absentee are just estimates

We have also included the amounts budgeted for the 2004 primary election as a point of comparison.

In the table below, costs that do not change between types of elections are excluded. For example, the cost of machine seals and election supplies are the same for both types of elections.

Comparison of Costs of Vote Centers with Precinct Elections

	2008		Budget 2004 Primary Election
	Precinct	Vote Center	
Number of Polling Places	92	20	85
Registered Voters	91,736	91,736	73,956
Number of Voters	39,832	39,832	15,176
Number of Pollworkers - Full Time	460	113	425
Number of Pollworkers - Part Time	0	12	
Number of Greeters	0	18	
Part-time Labor* (Incremental Only)	$5,232		$8,200
Overtime	$1,616	$1,818	$900
Pollworkers	$70,380	$21,152	$51,100
Traveling Board	$768	$384	Included in PT
Sign Installers	$0	$260	$0
Satellite Absentee Workers	$0	$9,594	$0
Meals	$8,280	$3,084	$7,450
Absentee Ballot Direct Costs ($2.73 each)	$8,190	$1,993	$1,128
Printing Pollbooks (Direct) ***	$2,145	$0	$1,875
Rentals	$2,400	$0	$2,500
Equipment Transportation	$3,835	$4,996	$1,360
Printing and Mailing of Postcards	$0	$23,266	$0
Training	$7,800	$8,365	$4,250
Total	$110,646	$74,912	$78,763
Cost Per Vote	$2.78	$1.88	$5.19

Training expenses were substantially higher for this election. One of the reasons for the increase in cost was that Ivy Tech developed an assessment instrument to help determine if election workers comprehended the material they were taught. While we didn't disqualify any election workers on the basis of their scores on the assessment, we will use the information to make sure that the material is being presented correctly. For example, if a majority of election workers answered a particular question incorrectly, it would indicate that the material in question wasn't being presented in a comprehensible way. We anticipate that training costs for future elections will move down.

Election Day Issues - There were remarkably few issues on election day. We did have some problems with over-zealous supporters of individual candidates but these issues were all resolved fairly quickly. (Although we did have to threaten to call local law enforcement in one instance.)

One polling place lost Internet connectivity for a time but the staff was well trained and implemented our contingency plan. As a member of the Election Board who was observing put it, "I don't believe that the voters even noticed that something was wrong." The technical staff quickly deployed the wireless laptops and wired connectivity was re-established in rapid time. This problem occurred in our third busiest Vote Center; this center had the fastest voter processing time, so clearly voters were not inconvenienced.

We underestimated the number of voters who would vote at the Outpost and Lafayette Fire Station #5. Additional equipment and election workers were sent to both those locations. Both had more equipment by 7:45am.

We also learned that it is possible to have too much help at a Vote Center; too many workers and they trip over each other.

Looking Ahead to Fall 2008

We believe that voters, having experienced the ease and convenience of Vote Centers and especially satellite voting, will not be anxious to go back to precinct-based voting. We hope that legislation will be introduced to make Vote Centers an option for those counties who want to use them.

Most of the changes that we are anticipating for fall are of the "tweaking" variety. These are minor changes that improve the experience for the voter but none can be characterized as major.

Satellite Voting - Voters overwhelmingly liked satellite voting. An unsolicted e-mail from a voter stated "This is a short note to comment on how brilliantly smooth the voting center at Pay Less worked for me……..I know it was hard work to turn around long-held, tradition-bound practices for our civic duty but thank you!"

Some specific comments on satellite voting:

- We started a little earlier than two weeks prior to Election Day, although our original plan called to begin no more than two weeks before the election. We made the choice to start earlier at Purdue to accommodate their policy of scheduling nothing during "dead week" which is the week before final exams. The fall schedule does not run into those conflicts.
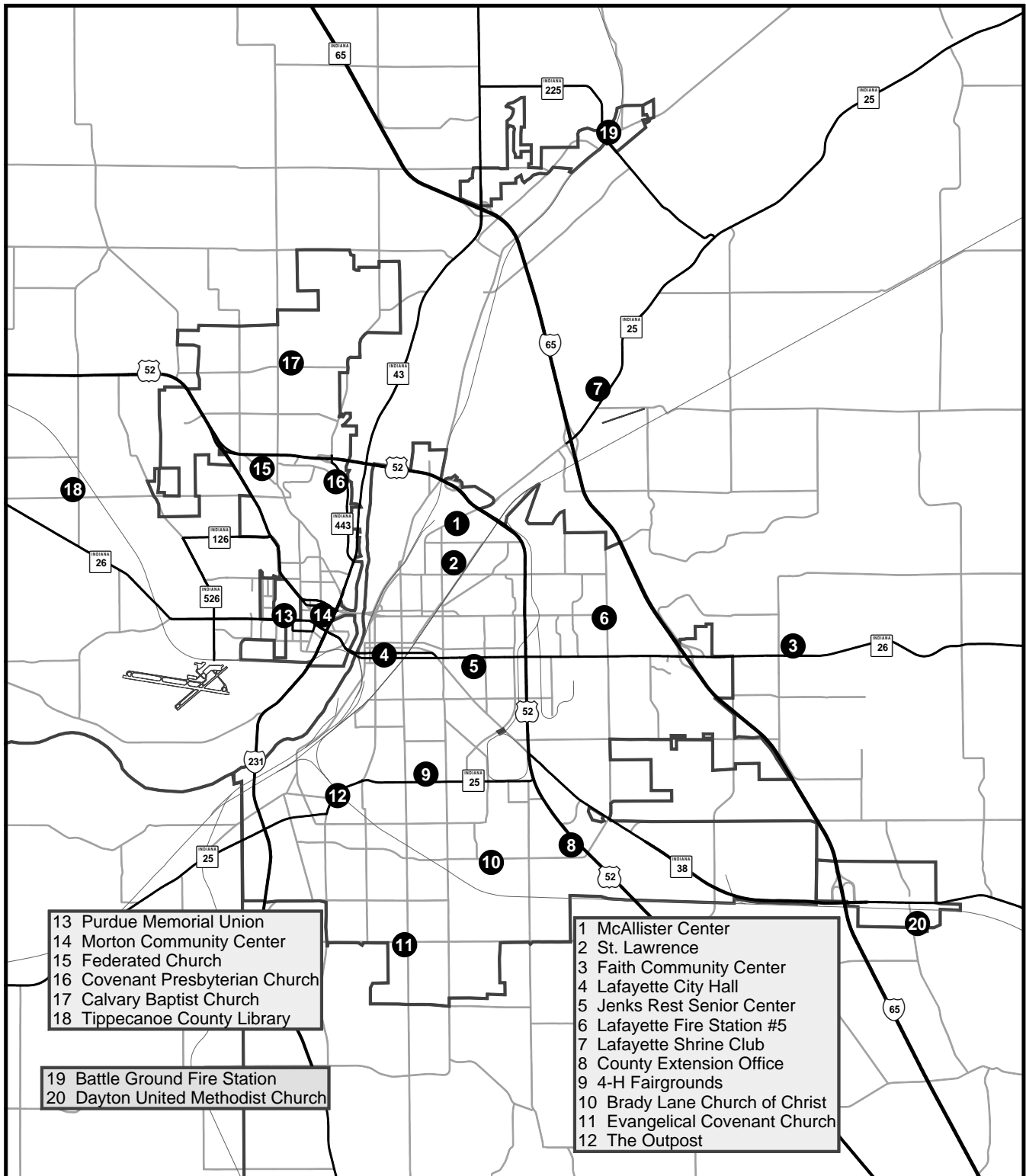
We plan to concentrate all satellite voting – both moving and fixed – in the two weeks prior to the election.

- We continue to monitor the staffing of satellite centers. While weekends are quite busy, having four staff members didn't work well; the staff tripped over each other. Three was more than sufficient for most sites.
- Ending satellite voting on Sunday proved to be a good choice as it gave us all day Monday to prepare for the election.
- Nursing home residents and their families really appreciated being able to vote at their facilities. This reduced the number of traveling board visits required.

Election Day Improvements -

- We plan to improve signage at some sites - voters who are not familiar with the neighborhood have trouble locating McAllister Center and the County Extension Office.
- We will be moving to a larger room within McAllister Center for the general election; this will allow a much better layout.
- We moved to a different room in Lafayette City Hall for this election. However, it still was not successful as the room had only one narrow door and was very cramped. Although the people are great to work with and the Internet lightning fast, the physical layout of the space needs to be changed. We will be working with an architectural designer to see if we can make the space work; if not, we will be looking for another downtown location.
- We received a complaint from a disabled voter about the Battle Ground Fire Station. He pointed out, quite correctly, that "handicap accessible" does not mean "handicap friendly." Although technically the space can be made to meet the DOJ/ADA standards, the room is still very cramped and will be too small for the number of voters we expect for the general election. We will be searching for another acceptable space in that general area of the county.
- We are going to "flip" the layout of Lafayette Fire Station #5; this will allow voters to wait in the hallway of the fire station where they will be protected from the weather and should allow for a little smoother flow of voters.
- We need to have a sign to post on the door of the polling place at 6:00pm explaining to potential voters that the polls are closed.
- We are exploring the possibility of a "Votemobile". This RV style vehicle would allow us to set up an early voting site in areas that might otherwise lack an ADA accessible voting location.

Location of Vote Centers
Tippecanoe County, Indiana

13 Purdue Memorial Union
14 Morton Community Center
15 Federated Church
16 Covenant Presbyterian Church
17 Calvary Baptist Church
18 Tippecanoe County Library

19 Battle Ground Fire Station
20 Dayton United Methodist Church

1 McAllister Center
2 St. Lawrence
3 Faith Community Center
4 Lafayette City Hall
5 Jenks Rest Senior Center
6 Lafayette Fire Station #5
7 Lafayette Shrine Club
8 County Extension Office
9 4-H Fairgrounds
10 Brady Lane Church of Christ
11 Evangelical Covenant Church
12 The Outpost

Map prepared by the Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County.

Map was produced with the assistance of the Tippecanoe County GIS Department on April 15, 2008.

Any questions regarding voter precinct, or where to vote should be directed to the Board of Election and Registration: (765) 423-9303, (765) 423-9316, or by email: electionboard@county.tippecanoe.in.us.

Board of Election & Registration
Tippecanoe County Government
Lafayette, Indiana